

Activities in Science, Engineering, and Mathematics for Persons with Disabilities (PPD)

Program Announcement

NSF 00-69

DIRECTORATE FOR EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES

DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

PRE-PROPOSAL DEADLINE: May 15, 2000

FORMAL PROPOSAL DEADLINE: August 15, 2000



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION



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SUMMARY OF PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Program Title: Activities in Science, Engineering, and Mathematics for Persons with Disabilities (PPD)

Synopsis of Program:

This program is aimed at bringing about needed change in academic and professional climates, increasing the awareness and recognition of the needs and capabilities of students with disabilities, promoting the accessibility and appropriateness of instructional materials, media, and educational technologies, and increasing the availability of student enrichment resources including mentoring activities. In short, efforts are dedicated to changing the factors wherein neglect, paucity, and indirection historically have stifled the early interest in science and mathematics shown by students with disabilities, and have impeded the advancement of these individuals as they prepare themselves for careers in SMET fields.

Cognizant Program Officer:

- Dr. Lawrence Scadden, Program Director, Human Resource Development, 815, telephone: (703) 306-1635 ext. 6865, e-mail: lscadden@nsf.gov.

Applicable Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number:

- 47.076 --- Education and Human Resources

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

- **Organization Limit:** Limited to universities and colleges; nonprofit, nonacademic institutions (including museums, professional associations, and community-based organizations); state and local governments (including school districts); and for-profit research institutions and businesses.
- **PI Eligibility Limit:** None
- **Limit on Number of Proposals:** Only one proposal may be submitted per institution or organization.

AWARD INFORMATION

- **Anticipated Type of Award:** Standard or Continuing
- **Estimated Number of Awards:** 15
- **Anticipated Funding Amount:** Approximately \$4.5 million will be available for this initiative in FY 2001, pending the availability of funds.

PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

A. Proposal Preparation Guidelines

- **Proposal Preparation Instructions:** Deviations From Standard Preparation Guidelines
 - The program contains deviations from the standard GPG proposal preparation guidelines. Please see the full program announcement for further information.

B. Budgetary Information

- **Cost Sharing Requirements:** Cost Sharing is not required
- **Indirect (F&A) limitations:** None
- **Other Budgetary Limitations:** See Program Description Section for budgetary limitations for each program activity.

C. Deadline/Target Dates

- **Letter of Intent Deadline:** None
- **Preproposal Deadline:** 5/15/00
- **Full Proposal Deadline:** 8/15/00

D. FastLane Requirements

- **FastLane Submission:** Fast Lane Strongly Encouraged
- **Fast Lane Contact:**
 - Mrs. Victoria Smoot, Program Specialist, Human Resource Development, 815, telephone: (703) 306-1640, e-mail: ysmoot@nsf.gov.

PROPOSAL REVIEW INFORMATION

- **Merit Review Criteria:** Standard NSF Merit Review Criteria applies.

AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

- **Award Conditions:** Standard NSF award conditions apply.
- **Reporting Requirements:** Standard NSF Reporting Requirements apply.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has a mandate to ensure the vitality of the United States in the scientific and technical enterprise. The goals of the Division of Human Resource Development (HRD), located in the Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR), are directed toward this end by promoting activities to increase the participation of traditionally underrepresented communities in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology (SMET) education and careers.

Within HRD, the Program for Persons with Disabilities (PPD) is committed to bringing about needed change in academic and professional climates, increasing the awareness and recognition of the needs and capabilities of students with disabilities, promoting the accessibility and appropriateness of instructional materials, media, and educational technologies, and increasing the availability of student enrichment resources including mentoring activities. In short, efforts are dedicated to changing the factors wherein neglect, paucity, and indirection historically have stifled the early interest in science and mathematics shown by students with disabilities, and that impeded the advancement of these individuals as they prepare themselves for careers in SMET fields.

II. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

DEMONSTRATION AND INTERVENTION PROJECTS

The Foundation supports the design and conduct of special Demonstration and Intervention Projects to reduce the barriers that inhibit the interest, participation, retention, and advancement in SMET education and careers for persons with disabilities.

Prospective proposers are strongly encouraged to give specific attention in the design of projects to the critical issues that hinder the inclusion and participation in SMET education of students with disabilities, and the successful retention of these students in pursuit of SMET careers. These issues include, but are not limited to:

- inclusion and participation in elementary, secondary and undergraduate level mathematics and science courses;
- availability of, and participation in, science enrichment activities through intra- and extracurricular hands-on SMET experiences;
- availability of, and access to, appropriate mathematics and science instructional materials, media, educational technologies, and laboratory experiences;
- interaction with role models and mentors;
- attitudes of pre-college teachers, counselors, and higher education faculty; and
- career guidance.

Projects in this category should demonstrate the effectiveness of strategies that improve participation of students with disabilities in SMET education. Examples of activities that are appropriate under this competition include, but are not limited to:

- examination of effective methods for teaching science or mathematics so that students with disabilities perform competitively with other students on their education level;
- adaptation of existing science or mathematics curricula so that they are appropriate for all students including those with disabilities (to be conducted collaboratively with the publisher or other disseminators to ensure rapid dissemination of the new products);
- development or adaptation of educational technology or media to ensure independent use by students with disabilities;
- efforts to overcome stereotyping of persons with disabilities among parents, teachers, peers, and co-workers;
- provision of science enrichment activities for students with disabilities; and
- exploration of the maximum use of scientists with disabilities as mentors to improve the interest, performance, and retention of students with disabilities in SMET education.

AWARD SIZE AND DURATION

Demonstration and Intervention Projects may be up to three years in length. Requests for one or two years are also acceptable. The Foundation recognizes that one year may not be sufficient to conduct a project, complete necessary analysis, and prepare reports for dissemination. A budget request of up to \$150,000 per year is allowed. See the section on Renewal of Exemplary Demonstration and Intervention Projects.

DEADLINES

Brief preliminary proposals are required (please see page 12 for details). Prospective proposers who do not submit a preliminary proposal are not eligible to submit in the formal competition. Preliminary proposals have a deadline of May 15, 2000. Formal proposal packages must be received at NSF no later than August 15, 2000.

RENEWAL OF EXEMPLARY DEMONSTRATION AND INTERVENTION PROJECTS

Successful Demonstration and Intervention Projects may encounter difficulty continuing their exemplary activities at the conclusion of two- or three-year awards. Merit review panels may no longer consider the project concept to be innovative, in light of past successes. The Program for Persons with Disabilities will entertain renewal applications from Demonstration and Intervention Projects as they near the date of their termination. The purpose of this competition is to assist awardees in institutionalizing exemplary strategies used to promote inclusion of students with disabilities in SMET education.

Proposals in this competition are restricted to institutions and organizations that have previously received awards for Demonstration Projects from the Program for Persons with Disabilities and are nearing or recently passed the termination of their award. Proposals must include descriptions of: past experiences and successes; activities proposed for extending the project to additional participants; and, plans for securing non-Federal funds for future operation and maintenance of the project.

AWARD SIZE AND DURATION

Demonstration and Intervention Projects may be renewed once, for up to an additional three years. Requests for one or two years are also acceptable. A budget request of up to \$120,000 for the first year of the renewal is allowed. Second year funding can not exceed \$90,000, and year three can not exceed \$60,000.

DEADLINES

Brief preliminary proposals are required (please see page 12 for details). Prospective proposers who do not submit a preliminary proposal are not eligible to submit in the formal competition. Preliminary proposals have a deadline of May 15, 2000. Formal proposal packages must be received at NSF no later than August 15, 2000.

INFORMATION DISSEMINATION PROJECTS

The Foundation encourages proposals that support innovative activities designed to disseminate and promote use of program results, to promote replication of successful strategies used to increase the recruitment, education, and retention in SMET education and career development of persons with disabilities, and to provide the Nation's SMET teaching force information on strategies that permit full and successful participation of students with disabilities in SMET educational environments. Audiences for Information Dissemination activities include pre-college school counselors and science and mathematics teachers, college and university SMET faculty, and families of students with disabilities.

Activities to be supported include symposia, workshops, and the development of informational materials and media that present information on techniques, instructional materials, technologies, and adaptations that promote full inclusion and participation in SMET curricula by students with disabilities, or inform the scientific and educational communities and the general public of the potential of persons with disabilities in SMET.

Proposals for Information Dissemination Activities should include:

- a statement of the need, the intended outcomes, and the expected national and/or regional impact of the activity;
- a description of the activity and appropriate bibliographic references;
- names and qualifications of key personnel involved in the Dissemination Activity;

- estimates of number of participants and their description; and
- information about the location and probable date(s) of meetings (if applicable) and the method of announcement or invitation.

AWARD SIZE AND DURATION

Information Dissemination Projects limited to two years in length. Budget requests may not exceed \$100,000 per year. Support from other sources, if expected should be explained in the budget explanation section.

DEADLINES

Brief; informal, preliminary proposals are required (please see page 12 for details). Prospective proposers who do not submit a preliminary proposal are not eligible to submit in the formal competition. Preliminary proposals have a deadline of May 15, 2000. Formal proposal packages must be received at NSF no later than August 15, 2000.

CAPACITY BUILDING WITHIN COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Research data consistently indicate that the majority of students with disabilities who pursue higher education at the conclusion of secondary school first enter two-year community colleges. The Program for Persons with Disabilities is initiating a new priority aimed at increasing the ability of these institutions to integrate students with disabilities into SMET curricula. The Foundation encourages proposals designed to establish and test models by which students with disabilities are recruited and trained in SMET disciplines in community college environments. Proposals submitted in this competition should include descriptions of - " the need, the planned activity, and the intended outcomes; " estimates of the number of participants and their academic activities; " methods to be used for recruiting students, and " plans for preparing community college SMET faculty for full participation of students with disabilities in classes, laboratories, and examination settings. Additionally, the Foundation encourages proposals designed to develop and implement large-scale capacity-building activities for the Nation's community colleges relating to inclusion of students with disabilities in SMET curricula. These proposals must describe the process and content to be used in building the capacity of community college institutions, administrations, and SMET faculty for the inclusion and participation of students with disabilities in SMET courses; the methods planned for implementing the capacity-building activities, and plans for assessing the outcome of the proposed activities.

AWARD SIZE AND DURATION

Capacity-Building Projects may be up to three years in length. Requests for pilot studies, or one or two-year projects, are also acceptable. The Foundation recognizes that one year may not be sufficient to conduct a project, complete necessary analysis, and prepare reports for dissemination. Pilot studies should be limited to \$50,000 for one year. Otherwise, a budget request of up to \$150,000 per year is allowed.

DEADLINES

Brief preliminary proposals are required (please see page 12 for details). Prospective proposers who do not submit a preliminary proposal are not eligible to submit in the formal competition. Preliminary proposals have a deadline of May 15, 2000. Formal proposal packages must be received at NSF no later than August 15, 2000.

PROJECT EVALUATION

All proposals submitted to the Program for Persons with Disabilities under any competition must identify the project outcomes to be targeted for each year of the proposed award. Techniques and/or instruments to be used for measuring these outcomes must be described in the Proposal Narrative as a part of the Evaluation Plan.

Awardees will be required to participate in a program-level evaluation by which NSF can assess quantitative gains in relevant measures for students with disabilities and make qualitative assessments of the process of change. Projects are expected to have the capability of collecting and analyzing data derived from program evaluation activities. In addition, it is expected that each project will complement this effort with its own formative evaluation.

Please also see page 18 for other NSF programs of interest to disabled persons.

III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Organizations eligible to submit proposals under this program include universities and colleges; nonprofit, nonacademic institutions (including museums, professional associations, and community-based organizations); state and local governments (including school districts); and for-profit research institutions and businesses. The Foundation encourages proposals, which serve to build or strengthen alliances among eligible organizations.

IV. AWARD INFORMATION

The award amounts and project durations are listed in the individual program descriptions. Under this announcement, proposal award amounts and durations must be submitted in accordance with the requirements of each program activity.

V. PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

A. Proposal Preparation Instructions

Proposals submitted in response to this program announcement should be prepared and submitted in accordance with the general guidelines contained in the NSF *Grant Proposal Guide* (GPG) (NSF 00-2). The complete text of the GPG (including electronic forms) is available electronically on the NSF Web Site at: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2000/nsf002/start.htm>. Paper copies of the GPG may be obtained from the NSF Publications Clearinghouse, telephone (301) 947-2722 or by e-mail from pubs@nsf.gov.

PRELIMINARY PROPOSALS

Preliminary proposals will be used for screening out proposals which are ineligible for NSF support (e.g., clinical medicine). Program staff will provide feedback to help proposers in deciding whether to submit a formal proposal. Preliminary proposals should contain brief descriptions of the following: (1) the need being addressed, and target audience; (2) major project goals; (3) project methodology; (4) brief outline of qualifications of project personnel; (5) evaluation plans; (6) dissemination plans; and (7) plans to institutionalize the project activities following the NSF funding period. In addition, please include a paragraph describing budgetary needs.

The preliminary proposals should have a maximum of five single-spaced pages, and a cover letter in lieu of the NSF standard cover sheet. Review of these preliminary proposals will provide NSF staff an opportunity to determine proposal eligibility and to comment on the appropriateness of proposal content, focus, scope, and target population. Proposers are strongly encouraged to discuss proposed projects with the program officer by calling (703) 306-1636. Program staff will provide feedback on the preliminary proposals within four weeks of receipt. This feedback may be helpful to proposers in deciding whether to submit a formal proposal. Prospective proposers who do not submit preliminary proposals are not eligible to submit in the formal competition. Preliminary proposals have a deadline of May 15, 2000.

An original, with one copy, should be sent to:

Program for Persons with Disabilities
DHRD Room 815
National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22230.

FORMAL PROPOSALS

Narrative

The deadline for all formal proposals being submitted to the program for persons with disabilities is August 15, 2000. Formal proposals should include the project description components as described below. Awards will be made by February 2001, pending availability of funding.

Except as modified by the guidelines set forth in this document, standard NSF guidelines on proposal preparation, submission, evaluation, awards, declinations, and withdrawals contained in the Grant Proposal Guide (GPG) (NSF 00-2) are applicable. In particular, proposers should note that the Project Description is strictly limited to 15 pages; 30 double-spaced pages are not acceptable. Appendices may be included, but should not contain extraneous materials. Appendices should be limited to brief curriculum vitae and letters of commitment to document collaborative arrangements of significance described in the Project Description portion of the proposal. Proposers should be judicious in this regard, as NSF leaves to individual reviewer discretion what part of the appendices, if any, should be read.

Where multiple organizations are involved, only one of them can submit the proposal. It should describe clearly the role to be played by the other organizations, and should specify the managerial arrangements contemplated. If all or part of the project will be performed off-campus or away from organizational headquarters, a rationale should be provided.

The Project Description section for proposals submitted to the Program for Persons with Disabilities must include:

- goals and objectives;
- project design, including a demonstration of understanding of previous research and projects; anticipated impact of the project; planned products or publications; timeline for activities; and dissemination strategies;
- description of participant recruitment and selection;
- evaluation and assessment plan;
- qualifications of staff (and a list of advisory committee members, if applicable);
- description of participating organizations (and their responsibilities); letters of agreement must be included in the appendices;
- planned products or publications;
- discussion of the results of prior NSF support if received within the last five years (see page 10 of the GPG for further clarification).

Proposal review and processing normally takes six months.

Proposers are reminded to identify the program announcement number NSF 00-69 in the program announcement/solicitation block on the proposal Cover Sheet (NSF Form 1207). Compliance with this requirement is critical to determining the relevant proposal processing guidelines. Failure to submit this information may delay processing.

B. Cost Sharing Requirements

Cost Sharing is not required in proposals submitted under this Program Announcement .

C. Deadline/Target Dates

The preliminary proposals must be received at NSF by 5:00 PM, ET, 5/15/00.

For paper submission of proposals, the paper copies of the proposal **MUST** be received by 5:00 PM ET, 8/15/00.

For electronic submission of proposals, the proposal **MUST** be submitted by 5:00 PM local time, 8/15/00.

D. FastLane Requirements

Proposers are strongly encouraged to prepare and submit proposals using the NSF FastLane system. Detailed instructions for proposal preparation and submission via FastLane are available at: <https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/a1/newstan.htm>.

Submission of Signed Cover Sheets. For proposals submitted electronically, the signed copy of the proposal Cover Sheet (NSF Form 1207) must be postmarked (or contain a legible proof of mailing date assigned by the carrier) within five working days following proposal submission and be forwarded to the following address:

National Science Foundation
DIS – FastLane Cover Sheet
4201 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22230

Paper Submission of Proposals. For paper submission of proposals, proposers should follow submission instructions contained in the NSF Grant Proposal Guide (GPG), (NSF 00-2) Section I.F. and Appendix A.

VI. PROPOSAL REVIEW INFORMATION

A. NSF Proposal Review Process

Reviews of proposals submitted to NSF are solicited from peers with expertise in the substantive area of the proposed research or education project. These reviewers are selected by Program Officers charged with the oversight of the review process. NSF invites the proposer to suggest at the time of submission, the names of appropriate or inappropriate reviewers. Care is taken to ensure that reviewers have no conflicts with the proposer. Special efforts are made to recruit reviewers from non-academic institutions, minority-serving institutions, or adjacent disciplines to that principally addressed in the proposal.

Proposals will be reviewed against the following general review criteria established by the National Science Board. Following each criterion are potential considerations that the reviewer may employ in the evaluation. These are suggestions and not all will apply to any given proposal. Each reviewer will be asked to address only those that are relevant to the proposal and for which he/she is qualified to make judgements.

What is the intellectual merit of the proposed activity?

How important is the proposed activity to advancing knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields? How well qualified is the proposer (individual or team) to conduct the project? (If appropriate, the reviewer will comment on the quality of the prior work.) To what extent does the proposed activity suggest and explore creative and original concepts? How well conceived and organized is the proposed activity? Is there sufficient access to resources?

What are the broader impacts of the proposed activity?

How well does the activity advance discovery and understanding while promoting teaching, training, and learning? How well does the proposed activity broaden the participation of underrepresented groups (e.g., gender, ethnicity, disability, geographic, etc.)? To what extent will it enhance the infrastructure for research and education, such as facilities, instrumentation, networks, and partnerships? Will the results be disseminated broadly to enhance scientific and technological understanding? What may be the benefits of the proposed activity to society?

Principal Investigators should address the following elements in their proposal to provide reviewers with the information necessary to respond fully to both of the above-described NSF merit review criteria. NSF staff will give these elements careful consideration in making funding decisions.

Integration of Research and Education

One of the principal strategies in support of NSF's goals is to foster integration of research and education through the programs, projects, and activities it supports at academic and research institutions. These institutions provide abundant opportunities where individuals may concurrently assume responsibilities as researchers, educators, and students and where all can engage in joint efforts that infuse education with the excitement of discovery and enrich research through the diversity of learning perspectives.

Integrating Diversity into NSF Programs, Projects, and Activities

Broadening opportunities and enabling the participation of all citizens - women and men, underrepresented minorities, and persons with disabilities - is essential to the health and vitality of science and engineering. NSF is committed to this principle of diversity and deems it central to the programs, projects, and activities it considers and supports.

A summary rating and accompanying narrative will be completed and signed by each reviewer. In all cases, reviews are treated as confidential documents. Verbatim copies of reviews, excluding the names of the reviewers, are mailed to the Principal Investigator/Project Director by the Program Director. In addition, the proposer will receive an explanation of the decision to award or decline funding.

B. Review Protocol and Associated Customer Service Standard

All proposals are carefully reviewed by at least three other persons outside NSF who are experts in the particular field represented by the proposal. Proposals submitted in response to this announcement will be reviewed by Panel Review.

Reviewers will be asked to formulate a recommendation to either support or decline each proposal. The Program Officer assigned to manage the proposal's review will consider the advice of reviewers and will formulate a recommendation.

In most cases, proposers will be contacted by the Program Officer after his or her recommendation to award or decline funding has been approved by the Division Director. This informal notification is not a guarantee of an eventual award.

NSF will be able to tell applicants whether their proposals have been declined or recommended for funding within six months for 95 percent of proposals. The time interval begins on the proposal deadline or target date or from the date of receipt, if deadlines or target dates are not used by the program. The interval ends when the Division Director accepts the Program Officer's recommendation.

In all cases, after programmatic approval has been obtained, the proposals recommended for funding will be forwarded to the Division of Grants and Agreements for review of business, financial, and policy implications and the processing and issuance of a grant or other agreement. Proposers are cautioned that only a Grants and Agreements Officer may make commitments, obligations or awards on behalf of NSF or authorize the expenditure of funds. No commitment on the part of NSF should be inferred from technical or budgetary discussions with a NSF Program Officer. A Principal Investigator or organization that makes financial or personnel commitments in the absence of a grant or cooperative agreement signed by the NSF Grants and Agreements Officer does so at its own risk.

VII. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

A. Notification of the Award

Notification of the award is made to *the submitting organization* by a Grants Officer in the Division of Grants and Agreements. Organizations whose proposals are declined will be advised as promptly as possible by the cognizant NSF Program Division administering the program. Verbatim copies of reviews, not including the identity of the reviewer, will be provided automatically to the Principal Investigator.

B. Award Conditions

An NSF award consists of: (1) the award letter, which includes any special provisions applicable to the award and any numbered amendments thereto; (2) the budget, which indicates the amounts, by categories of expense, on which NSF has based its support (or otherwise communicates any specific approvals or disapprovals of proposed expenditures); (3) the proposal referenced in the award letter; (4) the applicable award conditions, such as Grant General Conditions (NSF-GC-1)* or Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) Terms and Conditions * and (5) any NSF brochure, program guide, announcement or other NSF issuance that may be incorporated by reference in the award letter. Cooperative agreement awards also are administered in accordance with NSF Cooperative Agreement Terms and Conditions (CA-1). Electronic mail notification is the preferred way to transmit NSF awards to organizations that have electronic mail capabilities and have requested such notification from the Division of Grants and Agreements.

*These documents may be accessed electronically on NSF's web site at http://www.nsf.gov/home/grants/grants_gac.htm. Paper copies may be obtained from the NSF Publications Clearinghouse, telephone (301) 947-2722 or by e-mail from pubs@nsf.gov.

More comprehensive information on NSF Award Conditions is contained in the NSF *Grant Policy Manual* (GPM) Chapter II, (NSF 95-26) available electronically on the NSF web site at <http://www.nsf.gov/cgi-bin/getpub?gpm>. The GPM is also for sale through the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office (GPO), Washington, DC 20402. The telephone number at GPO for subscription information is (202) 512-1800. The GPM may be ordered through the GPO web site at <http://www.gpo.gov>.

C. Reporting Requirements

For all multi-year grants (including both standard and continuing grants), the PI must submit an annual project report to the cognizant Program Officer at least 90 days before the end of the current budget period.

Within 90 days after the expiration of an award, the PI also is required to submit a final project report. Approximately 30 days before expiration, NSF will send a notice to remind the PI of the requirement to file the final project report. Failure to provide final technical reports delays NSF review and processing of pending proposals for that PI. PIs should examine the formats of the required reports in advance to assure availability of required data.

NSF has implemented an electronic project reporting system, available through FastLane. This system permits electronic submission and updating of project reports, including information on: project participants (individual and organizational); activities and findings; publications; and other specific products and contributions. PIs will not be required to re-enter information previously provided, either with a proposal or in earlier updates using the electronic system.

VIII. CONTACTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

General inquiries should be made to the Activities in Science, Engineering, and Mathematics for Persons with Disabilities Program: Dr. Lawrence Scadden, Program Director, Human Resource Development, 815, telephone: (703) 306-1636, e-mail: lscadden@nsf.gov. For questions related to the use of FastLane, contact, Mrs. Victoria Smoot, Program Specialist, Human Resource Development, 815, telephone: (703) 306-1640, e-mail: vsmoot@nsf.gov.

IX. OTHER PROGRAMS OF INTEREST

The NSF Guide to Programs is a compilation of funding for research and education in science, mathematics, and engineering. The NSF Guide to Programs is available electronically at <http://www.nsf.gov/cgi-bin/getpub?gp>. General descriptions of NSF programs, research areas, and eligibility information for proposal submission are provided in each chapter

Many NSF programs offer announcements concerning specific proposal requirements. To obtain additional information about these requirements, contact the appropriate NSF program offices listed in Appendix A of the GPG. Any changes in NSF's fiscal year programs occurring after press time for the Guide to Programs will be announced in the NSF Bulletin, available monthly (except July and August), and in individual program announcements. The Bulletin is available electronically via the NSF web site at <http://www.nsf.gov/home/ebulletin>. Subscribers can also sign up for NSF's Custom News Service (<http://www.nsf.gov/home/cns/start.htm>) to be notified of new funding opportunities that become available.

FACILITATION AWARDS FOR SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS WITH DISABILITIES

The Foundation offers Facilitation Awards for Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities (EASED) as supplements to other NSF awards to provide students and faculty with disabilities special equipment and services needed to reduce or remove barriers to participation in research and training activities supported by NSF. The goal is to encourage persons with disabilities to pursue careers in science and engineering by providing the tools necessary for them to perform successfully in scientific research activities. Single copies of the announcement (NSF 91-54) describing EASED activities can be obtained at no cost via Internet e-mail at 'getpub@nsf.gov' or by calling the PPD Program at (703) 306-1636. TDD may be accessed at (703) 306-0090 or through FIRS on 1-800-877-8339.

BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING & RESEARCH TO AID PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Among the activities supported by the Biomedical Engineering and Research to Aid Persons with Disabilities program are undergraduate engineering design projects, especially those that provide prototype, "custom-designed" devices or software for persons with mental and/or physical disabilities.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

The National Science Foundation (NSF) funds research and education in most fields of science and engineering. Awardees are wholly responsible for conducting their project activities and preparing the results for publication. Thus, the Foundation does not assume responsibility for such findings or their interpretation.

NSF welcomes proposals from all qualified scientists, engineers and educators. The Foundation strongly encourages women, minorities and persons with disabilities to compete fully in its programs. In accordance with Federal statutes, regulations and NSF policies, no person on grounds of race, color, age, sex, national origin or disability shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving financial assistance from NSF (unless otherwise specified in the eligibility requirements for a particular program).

Facilitation Awards for Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities (FASSED) provide funding for special assistance or equipment to enable persons with disabilities (investigators and other staff, including student research assistants) to work on NSF-supported projects. See the program announcement or contact the program coordinator at (703) 306-1636.

The National Science Foundation has Telephonic Device for the Deaf (TDD) and Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) capabilities that enable individuals with hearing impairments to communicate with the Foundation about NSF programs, employment or general information. TDD may be accessed at (703) 306-0090, FIRS at 1-800-877-8339.

The National Science Foundation is committed to making all of the information we publish easy to understand. If you have a suggestion about how to improve the clarity of this document or other NSF-published materials, please contact us at plainlanguage@nsf.gov.

PRIVACY ACT AND PUBLIC BURDEN STATEMENTS

The information requested on proposal forms and project reports is solicited under the authority of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended. The information on proposal forms will be used in connection with the selection of qualified proposals; project reports submitted by awardees will be used for program evaluation and reporting within the Executive Branch and to Congress. The information requested may be disclosed to qualified reviewers and staff assistants as part of the proposal review process; to applicant institutions/grantees to provide or obtain data regarding the proposal review process, award decisions, or the administration of awards; to government contractors, experts, volunteers and researchers and educators as necessary to complete assigned work; to other government agencies needing information as part of the review process or in order to coordinate programs; and to another Federal agency, court or party in a court or Federal administrative proceeding if the government is a party. Information about Principal Investigators may be added to the Reviewer file and used to select potential candidates to serve as peer reviewers or advisory committee members. See Systems of Records, NSF-50, "Principal Investigator/Proposal File and Associated Records," 63 Federal Register 267 (January

5, 1998), and NSF-51, "Reviewer/Proposal File and Associated Records," 63 Federal Register 268 (January 5, 1998). Submission of the information is voluntary. Failure to provide full and complete information, however, may reduce the possibility of receiving an award.

Pursuant to 5 CFR 1320.5(b), an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to an information collection unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The OMB control number for this collection is 3145-0058. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 120 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions. Send comments regarding this burden estimate and any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: Suzanne Plimpton, Reports Clearance Officer, Information Dissemination Branch, Division of Administrative Services, National Science Foundation, Arlington, VA 22230, or to Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of OMB, Attention: Desk Officer for National Science Foundation (3145-0058), 725 - 17th Street, N.W. Room 10235, Washington, D.C. 20503.

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NSF 00-69